

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 06045 071314Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SY-05 OMB-01 EB-07

SR-02 ORM-01 /080 W

----- 021166

O 071230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 202

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 6045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: APRIL 7, THE 97TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 6031

1. SUMMARY. THE 45TH BRIGADE ABANDONED TWO POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE NORTHERN DIKE GIVING THE KC CLOSER FIRING ACCESS TO POCHEINTONG AIRFIELD AND WEAKENING OVERALL DEFENSES IN THE AREA. PREY VENG LOST FIVE POSITIONS ON ITS NORTHERN OUTER DEFENSE PERIMETER BUT CLAIMED 50 KC KILLED IN EARLIER COUNTERATTACKS IN THAT SECTOR. KOMPONG SPEU REPORTS FIGHTING ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE MARKET. SOME 200 TROOPS AND MUCH EQUIPMENT ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AFTER THE LOSS OF THNAL TOTUNG ON ROUTE 4 (REFTEL). TWENTY-FOUR ROCKETS AND EIGHT 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT AT POCHEINTONG. FANK HAS NOT YET REPORTED DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES; AT LEAST TWO CIVILIAN PLANES TOOK SHRAPNEL DAMAGE ACCORDING TO PRIVATE AIRLINE COMPANIES. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 06045 071314Z

2. THE 45TH BRIGADE ABANDONED TWO POSITIONS EARFUB # KSIT#NIGHT GIVING THE KC CLOSER ACCESS TO ATTACK POCHENTONG AIRPORT BY FIRE AND FURTHER WEAKENING THE DEFENSES IN THAT SECTOR. THE KC DID NOT EXPLOIT THEIR ADVANTAGE TODAYJS #

3. ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE MARKED KC ACTIVITY SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH. ELEMENTS OF TWO 9TH DIVISION BRIGADES UNDER FORMER PALACE FAVORITE BRIG. GEN. ITH SUONG ARE NOW ON STATION AT THE FARDEST POINT THE GKR CONTROLS ON ROUTE 1. THE SECOND DIVISION'S TOUGH 43RD BRIGADE IS BACKING UP BOTH THE 9TH DIVISION ELEMENTS AND ITS SISTER 24TH BRIGADE, WHICH IS SOUTHWEST OF ROUTE 1 POSITIONS.

4. KOMPONG SPEU FORCES ARE FIGHTING ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE TOWN'S MARKET. ALL OF KOMPONG SPEU'S INTERVENTION FORCES ARE FIGHTING AROUND TUOL LEAP AND ROUTE 4 LEAVING THE TOWN DEFENSES TO TERRITORIALS AND SELF-DEFENSE FORCES. HALF OF THE 400-MAN GARRISON AT THNAL TOTUNG AND MUCH EQUIPMENT ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AFTER THAT POST WITHDREW (REFTEL). FANK'S NEW DEFENSIVE LINE STARTS JUST EAST OF ANG SNOUL, ABOUT A DOZEN KM FROM THE AIRPORT AND 30 KM FROM THE CENTER OF PHNOM PENH.

5. THE KC FOUGHT OFF FANK COUNTERATTACKS TO TAKE FIVE POSITIONS ON THE NORTHERN, OUTER, SHELL OF THE CITY DEFENSES. AT LEAST 50 KC DIED IN THE FIGHTING. AT LAST WORD, 148 SURVIVORS OF THE FALL OF BANAM HAD STRAGGLED INTO PREY VENG. ABOUT A DOZEN FROM NEAK LUONG HAVE MADE IT TO SVAY RIENG.

6. TWENTY-FOUR ROCKETS AND EIGHT 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT AT POCHENTONG TODAY WITH NO REPORTED CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. CIVILIAN AIRLINES REPORT HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST TWO OF THEIR AIRCRAFT TOOK SHRAPNEL DAMAGE.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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